Declaration of Majuli Island in Assam as World Heritage Site

3300. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have written a letter to UNESCO for declaring Majuli Island in Assam as the World Heritage site; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and UNESCO's response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A nomination dossier for considering the inscription of Majuli Island in Jorahat district of Assam on the World Heritage site has been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre as India'a entry for 2006, under cultural landscape category.

An expert committee from ICOMOS, an advisory body to UNESCO has evaluated the site and the decision of the World Heritage committee is expected to be pronounced in the ensuing 30th session of the committee scheduled to be held at Vilnius, Lithuania between 11th — 16th July 2006.

Heritage sites in Delhi

†3301. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heritage sites in Delhi at present which are important from historical point of view;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of important historical Sites have been extincted in Delhi and have been encroached by land mafias and ancient idols therein have been sold abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to take back the lands of heritages from land mafias with a view to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c)As per survey of historcal buildings conducted by Maulvi Zafar Hasan (1913-15), 1,317 mounuments were listed in Delhi. Many of the structures listed in 1913—15 have been demolished, crumbled and encroached upon. As of now there are 175 monuments/sites declared as of national importance. Out of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.